

PRESIDENT: Senator Fowler, would you close debate on your motion to refer this matter to committee.

SENATOR FOWLER: First I would like to ask Senator DeCamp if he would yield to a question.

SENATOR DeCAMP: Yes.

SENATOR FOWLER: Senator DeCamp, I believe you indicated to me, and correct me if I am wrong, that you would be willing to have a public hearing on this if the committee would be specified, is that correct?

SENATOR DeCAMP: So that it never could be said that this wasn't adequately heard or debated, I would not oppose that, I guess, although I would like to see it done now but I will accept that. The Public Works Committee has traditionally handled these things.

SENATOR FOWLER: I would say, and I don't know if this is adequate for you, the Exec Board has basically established a policy that water issues go to the Public Works Committee so I think the precedent is certainly there for that. I guess with that statement by Senator DeCamp I would just like to make a few closing comments. Senator George asked why refer it to committee, why don't you just vote to kill it? That is because I haven't made my mind up on this or the following resolution. I think it is wrong, as Senator Lewis pointed out, to say that those of us who want a public hearing are against the issue. Senator Kremer says this is the most important issue we are going to hear in this Legislature and proceeds to say that we should not have a public hearing on it. That seems to me a contradiction. If this is, and I won't disagree with Senator Kremer's judgment on water matters, if this is the most important issue facing us, then I think this Legislature should have a public hearing on it. We are only asking to delay it a week, two weeks, so there can be an opportunity for a full presentation of the issues. It is a very controversial thing up in the area where it is planned. It is a controversial thing in the State of Nebraska. It is a very expensive thing. Senator Kahle says the more of these we have the better. Well, as we start adding these up, we can easily spend a billion federal dollars and very quickly, if we are going to follow that policy. So I think we ought to have a public hearing on it because it affects water, because of its cost, because as Senator Kremer said, this is the most important issue facing the Legislature. So I would go along with Senator DeCamp. I think it should have a public hearing.

PRESIDENT: The question is, shall this resolution be referred to committee, reference committee? Record your vote. Have you voted? Please vote. We will try for a couple of more calls. Have you all voted? There is 13 excused. Have you all voted? Record.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 11 nays.

PRESIDENT: The matter is referred to a committee. Now, the next one. We have a motion up by whom, Senator Rasmussen.

CLERK: LR 24.